

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1026

INFO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17547

NESCO

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PORG, UNESCO, US

SUBJECT: BURMESE AMBASSADOR U AUNG SHWE CANDIDATE
UNESCO ADG POST

1. BURMESE AMBASSADOR UNESCO, FRANCE AND SPAIN U AUNG SHWE, PAID CALL ON PERMREP JONES TO INFORM US THAT HE IS CANDIDATE FOR POST OF UNESCO ADG ADMINISTRATION. COVERING NOTE TO CURRICULUM VITAE ASKS US SUPPORT OF CANDIDACY AND POINTS OUT THAT BURMA IS UNDER-REPRESENTED ON UNESCO SECRETARIATE AND HAS NEVER HAD A NATIONAL IN A HIGH POST.

2. PERMREP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION AND AGREED FORWARD TO DEPARTMENT. AMBASSADOR SHWE SAID HE WAS NOT EXPECTING A COMMITMENT FOR SUPPORT, BUT WAS INTERESTED IN PERSONALLY LETTING US KNOW OF HIS CANDIDACY.

3. PERMREP TOOK OCCASION TO CHAT INFORMALLY WITH SHWE WHO IS A SMALL QUIET MAN, RARELY SEEN AND NEVER HEARD IN UNESCO CORRIDORS. CV INDICATES THAT SHWE'S BACKGROUND IS MAINLY MILITARY, HAVING SERVED IN BRITISH ARMY DURING WAR AND UP TO 1961 AND THEREAFTER IN DIPLOMATIC POST. HE DOES NOT HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE IN ADMINISTRATION AND BUDGET. WHEN ASKED WHETHER HE HAD

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BACKING OF OTHER ASIAN GOVERNMENTS, PARTICULARLY OF

REGIONAL GROUP, SHWE WAS VAGUE. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHETHER HIS CANDIDACY IS ENTIRELY HIS OWN IDEA OR A POLICY DECISION OF THE GOV. OF BURMA TO SEEK GREATER INFLUENCE IN UNESCO. WE SUSPECT THE FORMER AS SHWE HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE SINCE 1970 AND EVIDENTLY FINDS LIFE IN PARIS APPEALING. IN ANY CASE, DOUBTFUL IF HE HAS MUCH CHANCE FOR THE JOB; LEADING CANDIDATE, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, IS RAO, INDIA, WHO IS NOW DIRECTOR UNESCO BUDGET DIVISION.

4. CV AND COVERING NOTE BEING FORWARDED FOR DEPARTMENT CONSIDERATION AND FOR USE AS BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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